Test fire of Agni-I

1482. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Indian Defence Scientists have successfully test-fired the medium range nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-I;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when is the missile scheduled to be inducted into the Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Agni-I is a surface to surface ballistic missile with a range of 700 km. It can carry one tonne payload. In all three flight tests have been completed.

(c) The missile is in production for induction in Army.

Checking of ships carrying arms for the extremists

1483. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any ban on the Indian Navy to check the ships sailing across Bay of Bengal to ensure that they are not carrying arms from abroad for the extremists operating in the north-eastern region from hide-outs in neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, how many times the supply of arms has been stalled and destroyed by the Indian Navy during the last five years along the Bay of Bengal; and

(d) what steps Government contemplate to take to prevent illegal flow of arms through Bay of Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Nil.

(d) Government constantly monitors the security environment and, based on intelligence inputs, takes appropriate measures.